

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, and 5 are currently active in this case. Claim 1 has been amended by the current amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 2, and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,869,883 to Mehringer et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,172213 to Zimmerman and U.S. patent No. 6,670,699 to Mikubo et al. or U.S. patent No. 5,950,714 to Schnieder et al. or U.S patent publication No. 2002/0185726.

Briefly recapitulating, in claim 1 of the present application, the power semiconductor element is cooled directly from the conductive pipe, and also the inner lead part of the external connecting terminal is electrically conducted with the power semiconductor element through the path including the conductive pipe.

In contrast thereof, in Mehringer's structure illustrated in Fig. 4, the terminal lead 17 is bonded just above the metal body 14. Further, semiconductor circuit 8 is bonded just above the terminal lead 17. Thus, in Mehringer's structure, the semiconductor circuit 8 is not directly cooled by the metal body 14. Moreover, terminal lead 17 is in direct electrical contact with the semiconductor circuit 8 without the metal body 14 forming a part of the conducting path.

Consequently, Mehringer et al. are not believed to anticipate or render obvious the subject matter recited by claim 1 when considered alone or in combination with the applied secondary references. Claims 2 and 5 are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is believed to be allowable.

No further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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(OSMMN 06/04)